

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 14 have been amended and new claims 15-18 added. Thus, claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 2, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings and the specification, and rejected claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,633,973 to Kanzaki (Kanzaki). The Examiner further rejected claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanzaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,293 to Bridges et al. (Bridges).

Regarding the objection to the drawings, a replacement drawing sheet including corrected FIG. 5 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully submits that the replacement drawing sheet overcomes the objection to the drawings, and accordingly respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

The Examiner objected to the specification, stating that the Abstract of the Disclosure must not exceed 150 words. Applicant notes that the Abstract of the Disclosure contains 145 words, and thus, does not require correction. Applicant accordingly respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanzaki. Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended by this response. Amended claim 1 is

directed to a method for generating trace information of an information processing device, wherein the information processing device includes a processing unit and an interface device, wherein the processing unit generates operational information when branching occurs during processing, and wherein the interface device has a buffer circuit for receiving the operational information of the branching from the processing unit. The method includes the step of receiving only an absolute branching destination as branching address information from the processing unit and storing the absolute branching destination address in the buffer circuit.

In contrast, Kanzaki teaches a providing a branching source address in an absolute address representation and a branching destination address in a relative address representation from a Central Processing Unit (CPU) 2, and outputting the branching source address and the branching destination address to a trace control circuit 8.

However, Kanzaki does not teach or suggest “receiving only an absolute branching destination as branching address information from the processing unit and storing the absolute branching destination address in the buffer circuit” (emphasis added), as claimed in amended claim 1. The invention recited in claim 1 provides advantages over the cited art. For example, the present invention reduces the number of uses of an address bus, thereby enabling a high-speed operation.

Neither Kanzaki nor any of the other cited art teaches or suggests “receiving only an absolute branching destination as branching address information from the processing unit and storing the absolute branching destination address in the buffer

circuit,” as now recited in claim 1. For this reason, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record, and Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 4, 9, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanzaki. Claims 4, 9, and 14 have been amended similarly to claim 1. These claims are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in reference to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 9, and 14.

Claims 7-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanzaki. Claims 7-8 and 12-13 depend on independent claims 4 and 9, respectively, and define further novel features of the invention. Dependent claims 7-8 and 12-13 are patentable for at least the reasons described above in reference to independent claims 4 and 9. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-8 and 12-13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanzaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,293 to Bridges. Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 depend on independent claims 1, 4, and 9, respectively, and define further novel features of the invention. Dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 are patentable for at least the reasons described above in reference to independent claims 1, 4, and 9. Neither Kanzaki nor Bridges teaches receiving only an absolute branching destination address as branching address information from a processing unit to a determination circuit. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-3, 5-6, and 10-11 is respectfully requested.

New claims 15-16 and 17-18 are dependent on independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, and define further novel features of the invention. New claims 15-16 and 17-18 are patentable for at least the reasons described above in reference to independent claims 1 and 4.

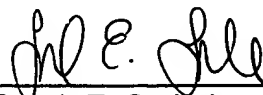
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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CMM:SES

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Fig. 3

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 3 has been corrected for minor typographical errors. Attached is replacement Figure 3.